

REMARKS

Claim 17 has been amended. Claims 17-20 and 22 are still pending in the present application. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.


Claims 17-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated U.K. Patent No. 2340516 to Stewart ("Stewart"), USP 5,941,265 to Zheng ("Zheng '265"), and USP 5,816,954 to Zheng ("Zheng '954"). Claims 17-20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 8-57164 ("JP") in view of USP 5,582,197 to Dobberstein "Dobbersten"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In rejecting claim 17 based on Stewart, Zheng '265, Zheng '954, JP and Dobberstein, the Examiner has construed the vertical and angled panels of claim 17 very broadly to cover virtually any two panels that can be positioned at any angle (even at 90 degrees) with respect to each other. For example, the Examiner has read these limitations on panels 22 and 24 in FIG. 1A of Zheng '265, and on panels 92 and 94 in FIG. 4 of Zheng '954. If the Examiner is according claim 17 such a broad construction, then Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 (as amended) is supported by the specification in the earliest parent application, Serial No. 764,784, which has a filing date of September 24, 1991. In this regard, the present application claims priority from an earliest filing date of September 24, 1991.

Claim 17, as amended, reads on FIG. 9 of Serial No. 764,784, with the panel 254 corresponding to the claimed vertical panel, and the panel 258 corresponding to the claimed angled panel. Since claim 17 is entitled to a priority date of September 24, 1991, none of the cited Stewart, Zheng '265, Zheng '954, JP and Dobberstein references are prior art because their publication dates are all later than September 24, 1991.

In light of the above, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any informal matters that can be resolved in a phone conversation, or if the Examiner has any suggestions or ideas that would further advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

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